

Letter to the editor

PURE POPULATION BANK OF *Meloidogyne* spp. OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL SCIENCE (CENSA)

Dear Sr.,

The root knot nematodes *Meloidogyne* spp. are among the most important pests of most crops worldwide and in Cuba. The taxonomic status of the populations in agricultural soils is an essential aspect for the management of this pest. At present, the Laboratory of Nematology has established a bank of twenty pure populations of *Meloidogyne* from different regions of Cuba. They were isolated from horticultural soils under shelter conditions. Some of these populations have been identified as *M. incognita* (Kofoid and White) Chitwood, *M. arenaria* Neal, and *Meloidogyne enterolobii* Yang and Eisenback (junior synonym *M. mayaguensis* Rammah and Hirshmann) by using traditional and molecular methods. They have been used for molecular studies, evaluation of variety resistance and for studying the effectiveness of biological control agents. They have also been useful in demonstrative practical teaching of students of the university and local farmers. The remaining pure populations with aberrant characteristics in their morphological patterns are being studied to confirm their taxonomic status by different molecular protocols.

Sincerely yours,

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